

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-19 were rejected.

Claims 1, 11, 16 and 19 are amended herewith.

I. 35 U.S.C. §102 Claim Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1, 8-10 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Moy *et al.* (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0035411A1). For the reasons set forth below, and in light of the claim amendments made herein, Applicant respectfully traverses the §102 rejection of his claims and requests reconsideration by the Examiner.

The invention disclosed and claimed in this application is directed to an enhanced signaling system that operates to provide a signaling platform that is independent of the electronic and optical switching and transmission systems interconnected with an integrated optical network. In particular, the enhanced signaling system of the invention provides a signaling mechanism that allows any interface device to the optical network to be handled without the need to use the legacy signaling techniques of that device.

The primary reference, Moy, simply does not provide a teaching that can reasonably be construed to show or suggest a ubiquitous signaling system that operates to interface multiple legacy external signaling systems to an integrated optical network independently of the signaling techniques/protocols of those multiple external signaling systems. Indeed, the focus of Moy is on network payload (*i.e.*, voice or data signals transmitted over the network), not signaling. Beyond that, the teaching of Moy is directed to issues of QoS and how best calls can be launched across an optical network, when originating from different end points.

Nothing in that teaching shows or suggests the essential idea of the invention here – a ubiquitous signaling mechanism that operates independently of the external signaling networks to which it is interfaced.

Applicants have reviewed their independent claims and come to the view that the distinguishing feature of the invention as discussed above may not be clearly articulated in the existing claims. Accordingly, each of the independent claims has been amended to include a new limitation clearly directed to the operation of the enhanced signaling system of the invention being independent of the legacy signaling methodologies associated with the external signaling networks interfaced to the invention. With these amendments, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 11 and 16 are clearly patentable over the teaching of Moy. All of the remaining claims rejected under §102 depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of those independent claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the §102 rejection of the denominated claims.

II. 35 U.S.C. §103 Claim Rejections

Claims 2-7, 11-15 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over a combination of Moy *et al.* and at least one of three cited secondary references. In respect to claims 2-7, 11-15 and 17-18, it is noted that each of those rejected claims depends, either directly or indirectly, from one of independent claims 1, 11 or 16. Applicant has shown above that each of those independent claims is novel over the cited primary reference. Accordingly, those dependent claims must also be patentable over the cited reference. Withdrawal of the §103 rejection of dependent claims 2-7, 11-15 and 17-18 is accordingly respectfully requested.

Independent claim 19 was rejected over a combination of Moy *et al.* and Milton *et al.* (US Patent No.6,084,694). As with independent claims 1, 11 and 16, claim 19 has been amended to include a limitation clearly distinguishing over the teaching of Moy. Nothing in the secondary reference could reasonably be construed to teach the new limitation of claim 19, and the claim is accordingly believed to now be patentable over the cited references. Withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claim 19 is accordingly respectfully requested.

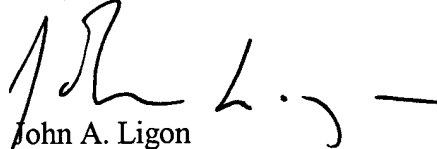
III. Conclusion

Having fully addressed the rejection bases made in the Final Office Action, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application now stands in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

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Please charge any fees due in respect to this amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-1944.

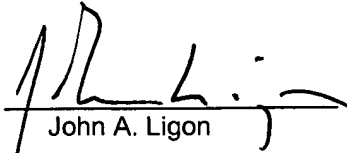
Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: May 9, 2005

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I hereby certify that this Response to Final Office Action is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on May 9, 2005.

By: 
John A. Ligon